

## **WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES**

### **PRELUDE**

*Russian Carol of the Bells*, arr. C. Uehlein<sup>1</sup>

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

from *Psalms* 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

Leader: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**People: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.**

**ALL: Praise for all his faithful, for all people who are close to him. Praise the Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

### **\*HYMN 143**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*, Regent Square<sup>2</sup>

1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

3 Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

4 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, in your gift to us of Jesus, you have given all of humanity a chance to change in being kinder, more compassionate, and most caring towards one another. You have asked us to be more loving as you love us still. Forgive our carelessness and our selfishness, all for ourselves and not for others. Lead us in yet another chance to change our ways. May our tasks we accomplish in saying and doing reflect your grace, glory. Help us to live our lives in ways that glorify your holy name. (continue individual confession.....). AMEN.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Our Lord God hears our pleas and our prayers this day. We can make our life better reflect the Light and Love of Christ.

**People: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, indeed.**

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## \*ACCLAMATION HYMN

*Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)<sup>3</sup>*

Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*1 Samuel 2:18-20,26*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

## DUET

*A Merry Tango, arr. J. Raney<sup>4</sup>*

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

*Luke 2:41-52*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in

the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

## MESSAGE

*Growing in Wisdom*

**\*HYMN 126** *Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child, Wonderful Child*<sup>5</sup>  
Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild; new life, new hope the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory!" Let the heavens ring. [Repeat]

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer

## PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 137

*He Came Down, He Came Down*<sup>6</sup>

He came down that we may have light, He came down that we may have light,  
He came down that we may have light, hallelujah for evermore.

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

**\*HYMN 132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, In Dulci Jubilo*<sup>7</sup>  
1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

# CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Noel: Suisse, L-C Daquin<sup>8</sup>*

### **Worship Notes:**

Please take a moment to fill out a friendship form located in your bulletin. The friendship form and offerings may be placed in the plates as you exit the sanctuary. Pencils and extra forms are available in the Narthex. Feel free to join us at coffee fellowship after worship in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

1 Music Setting by Christopher Uehlein, ©1991 Blue Cloud Abbey Publications (admin. OCP). Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

2 Text and Music: Public Domain

3 Text and Music: Public Domain

4 Music Setting by Joel Raney, ©2014 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

5 Music Harm. Jeffrey Redford, arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 2000 ©1992 The Pilgrim Press Music Arrangement ©2000 Horace Clarence Boyer Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

6 Text: Cameroon song Music: Cameroon melody, transcr. And arr. John L. Bell, 1986 Music arr. ©1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)  
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7 Music Harm. ©1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

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### **Leaders Today:**

Pastor: Rev. Sandy Nuernberg

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

Ushers: Judy Graham & Kathy Key

Dorothy Blotz, piano

Liturgist: Cynthia Bush

AV/Tech: John Tarr



## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS - December 26

### **Spreading Joy - THANK YOU**

Westminster's deliveries of food to Thoreau families have been completed. Thank you to all the volunteers, who participated on either, or both, December 3rd and December 17th. It's wonderful that we've had the opportunity to be part of this collective effort to meet a basic need. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. - Rhea

### **The Joy Continues...**

Thank you to everyone who donated and attended the PWW Desert and Auction and especially to Judy Graham for organizing it. About \$1,047 was raised, which will all benefit local charities!

### **Pastor Scott Away**

Pastor Scott will be on vacation starting December 25 and will return December 29. During that time, Rev. Sandy Nuernberg is available for pastoral emergencies. You can contact her at 608-695-4248 or sn333@aol.com.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

The Westminster Bible Study class will be studying the Gospel of Luke this spring and we invite you to join us. The Gospel of Luke is prominent in the upcoming lectionary passages and Scott plans to design worship and his preaching around the gospel. All interested in a layered approach to the Gospel of Luke in both worship and Bible Study are encouraged to join us for our study using New Testament scholar N.T. Wright's Luke For Everyone study guide resource. Westminster's Spring Bible Study class will take place weekly on Wednesdays, from 12:30-2 pm, via Zoom, starting January 26th and continuing through mid-May. This Bible Study is for everyone, so all are welcome! Please let Katie in the Church Office know of your commitment to the class and your interest in ordering a Study Guide by January 12th so that books can be ordered and distributed prior to the first class. See you on January 26th!

### **IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

**Care List :** Sally & Vern Forsberg, Ann Friedley, Jack Hamann, Gloria Hanson

**Members & Friends:** Kelly McCann, Gloria Stange, Bob Bush, Dale Rohde, Joel Jones, Joyce Schultze, Doug Rouse, Judy Braucht, Francoise Goddard (Johnson), Gay Didriksen, Sam Buffat and Family

**Note:** The church office will be closed Monday, December 27 and Monday January 3 in observance of the weekend holidays.